

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph before paragraph [0001]:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefits of priority from the prior PCT application No. PCT/IB03/03117 filed on June 11, 2003, and European Patent No. EP020160610, filed July 19, 2002, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph 24 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 1 depicts an exemplary embodiment of an image processing device according to the present invention, for executing an exemplary embodiment of a method in accordance with the present invention. The image processing device depicted in FIG. 1 comprises a central processing unit (CPU) or image processor 1 connected to a memory 2 for storing a deformable model and an image depicting an object. The image processor 1 may be connected to a plurality of input/output-, network- or diagnosis-devices 3 such as an MR device or a CT device. The image processor is furthermore connected to a display device 4 (for, e.g. a computer monitor) for displaying information or images computed or adapted in the image processor 1. An operator may interact with the image processor 1 via a keyboard 5 and/or other output devices which are not depicted in FIG. 1.

Please replace paragraph 43 with the following paragraph:

After the orthogonal distances are minimized, coordinates of a point p.sub.11 and the normal p.sub.12 of the plane are known, which may be output as the geometric properties 106.